



# COMMUTER LINES

Volume 12, Number 3

3rd Quarter 2005

## HURRICANE AFTERMATH

### DOTD secretary lists appropriation needs for Washington delegation

**S**tate transportation infrastructure needs in the wake of Hurricane Katrina total an estimated \$31.7 billion, according to DOTD Secretary Johnny B. Bradberry.

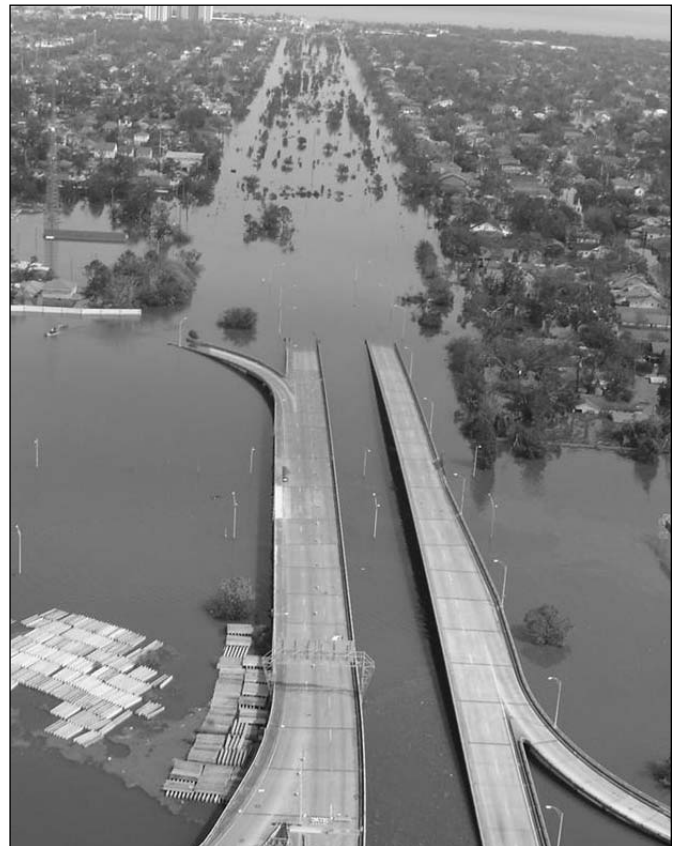
Bradberry and staffers traveled to Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, Sept. 21, to make a personal presentation to Louisiana's congressional delegation, transportation committee leaders and related federal officials, such as FHWA Administrator J. Richard Capka and U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta.

"We felt it was important to provide a specific and comprehensive overview of what it will take to begin to rebuild our infrastructure," Bradberry said.

"The state's ability to finance these repairs is limited, and we need federal assistance as quickly as possible."

The funding request is broken into three categories:

- Immediate repairs, replacements and urgent upgrades: \$7 billion.
- Critical future needs: \$4.5 billion.
- Flood protection: \$20.2 billion.



*Parts of New Orleans' interstate system lie submerged after Hurricane Katrina.*

Dr. Eric Kalivoda, DOTD assistant secretary for planning and programming, said the department was "very conservative" in its estimate: "We're not seeking a blank check."

**See HURRICANE, page 4**

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# BITS AND PIECES

## JOHNNY B. BRADBERRY, SECRETARY

### DOTD will succeed in face of change



To my fellow DOTD employees,  
First, I want to express my deepest and most sincere sympathies to those of you who are suffering through the devastating effects of this horrible storm. No words or deeds we can express or offer will make you and your families whole. Please know that my prayers and those of my family are with you and your families.

Just as Katrina's aftermath has affected us all and is altering many of our personal lives, the challenge of rebuilding the southeast region of Louisiana will change how DOTD does business in the foreseeable future. For the last several months, we have been working on how we will change our work processes to fit our resources and direction for our state. Now, change has truly been thrust upon us, and we must rise to a higher level of urgency in our work. Consequently, our priorities are shifting, and we must be flexible. In the coming weeks, we will further assess needs, develop strategies to meet those needs, and implement a plan of attack. These steps will most certainly dictate that we fundamentally alter DOTD's structure for months and, perhaps, years to come. Many of us will have to take on

new tasks as we develop new roles within the agency. As we share the sorrow of this devastation and what it is doing to our friends, neighbors and loved ones, let us also treat each other with patience and understanding as we work through the changes at DOTD.

You should know this up front: The task ahead of us will be difficult and frustrating. Early on, we know we have to rebuild the I-10 twin spans between New Orleans and Slidell, make road and bridge repairs quickly and efficiently, clear thousands of tons of debris, do timely and accurate inspection work and perform major work on signs and signals. We must do all this and still implement and program for the rest of the state.

While some DOTD employees are dedicated solely to dealing with the Katrina aftermath, all employees must be prepared for the rebuilding duties to be integrated into their day-to-day duties. At times, the magnitude of our jobs will

**See BITS, page 4**

#### ON THE ROAD WITH BRADBERRY

##### Abbreviated Calendar

###### July 2005

5	Executive meeting with the National Center for Pavement and Preservation	2	meeting
6	Good Road Breakfast	8	Meeting with Dept. of Economic Development
13	DOTD memorial dedication		Meeting with the Secretary of the Ports Association of Louisiana
14	Overview Business Planning and Performance	10	I-49 North meeting
	Measurements Workstream Plan	12	I-49 Unclaimed Property Bill signing in Shreveport; North Webster Parish Industrial
19	ESS 2005 Summit Meeting		District meeting on I-69
20	Rotary Club Luncheon	18	Railroad bill signing with Gov. Blanco in Ponchatoula
27	I-69 Meeting		
29	Selection Process Review	22-24	SASHTO 2005 Conference

###### August 2005

1 Sterlington Bridge update

###### September 2005

19-20 Washington, D.C.

**SECRETARY**  
Johnny B. Bradberry

**DEPUTY SECRETARY**  
Cedric Grant

**COMMUTER LINES STAFF**  
Mark Lambert  
Cleo Allen  
Lindsay Bergeron  
Sherry Dupre



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# DOTD puts 'twin spans' on fast-track schedule

**A**fter Katrina, Louisiana took a big step forward to restore its storm-damaged infrastructure by awarding a \$30.9 million "fast-track" contract to repair the I-10 "twin-span" bridge over Lake Pontchartrain, according to Gov. Kathleen Blanco and DOTD Secretary Johnny B. Bradberry.

Even with a four-day delay prompted by the arrival of Hurricane Rita, the \$30,964,255 emergency project will restore two-way traffic between Slidell and New Orleans on the eastbound side by Oct. 31.

And the governor announced that all four lanes of the bridge should be open by mid-January 2006.

"Repairing our roads and bridges is a critical step in helping Louisiana citizens get back to normal," Gov. Blanco said. "I have directed the state DOTD and its contractor to work nights and weekends to repair this bridge as quickly as possible. DOTD's construction schedule reflects my sense of urgency and commitment to getting the job done."

Boh Bros. Construction Co. of New Orleans was the low bidder on the job. Underscoring the urgency the state places on the job, bids were opened at 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 9. The bid was reviewed and approved by 3:30 p.m. The contract was signed by 5:15 p.m. Material and equipment were assembled over the weekend, and work began Monday, Sept. 12, Bradberry said.

Boh Brothers was put on a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week schedule until traffic can be restored, Bradberry said.

"This is an ambitious schedule, but we will meet that schedule," Bradberry said. "I expect nothing

less from all of our employees and our industry partners on this and all projects."

The project will make the eastbound span over Lake Pontchartrain passable for two-lane traffic by Oct. 31 and the other two spans on the westbound side passable by mid-January. Both spans suffered severe damage during Hurricane Katrina, which shifted, damaged or destroyed hundreds of precast concrete panels.

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**“ DOTD’S CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE REFLECTS MY COMMITMENT TO GETTING THE JOB DONE. ”**  
**– GOV. KATHLEEN BLANCO**

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Under Phase 1, Boh Brothers is taking precast concrete road segments from the more-damaged westbound span and installing them on the less-damaged east-

bound span to complete two lanes of traffic.

Phase 2 construction, under way concurrently with Phase 1, involves shifting the remaining undamaged panels on the westbound bridge to one end of that span. The rest of the westbound span will be repaired using temporary bridge span portable panels.

During Phase 3, Boh Bros. will perform daily maintenance for up to three years on the temporary panels.

The entire repair project is being financed entirely by the Federal Highway Administration.

In the first quarter of 2006, DOTD plans to take bids on a new twin-span bridge to replace the current twin spans, Bradberry said. That new bridge will be a six-lane structure built at a higher elevation. Exact costs and finance arrangements for a new twin-span bridge are not yet available, but Bradberry said he expects construction to take about three years.



*Hurricane Katrina severely damaged the "twin-span" bridges over Lake Pontchartrain, which link Slidell to New Orleans.*

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## HURRICANE (continued from page 1)

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### Immediate repairs, replacements and urgent upgrades

This category includes \$1.5 billion in emergency relief funds and the quick release of at least \$100 million to repair federal-aid roads and bridges. It also specifies replacement of the severely damaged I-10 “twin-

s p a n ”  
b r i d g e  
with a  
new six-  
lane, ele-  
v a t e d  
bridge as  
originally

intended (and for which a precedent was set by Florida hurricane repairs).

“Anyone can see that we can’t permanently repair the old bridge,” said Bradberry. “Traffic would have to be diverted onto U.S. 11 for years. Then we’d end up with a 43-year-old bridge that will be damaged again the next time a storm blows in.”

Other requests include funds to repair non-federal-aid roads and bridges; public ports, airports, railroads and maritime system repairs; assistance with La. 1 improvements; and assistance with population surges in Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Houma and Hammond.

DOTD is seeking \$25 million to establish a commuter rail service between Baton Rouge and New

Orleans for three years to transport displaced citizens to jobs.

### Critical future needs

Ten areas are listed, including ITS improvements; elevation of I-10 and I-610 in Orleans/Jefferson; widening I-10 from I-310 to La. 22;

construction of Phase 2 of the La. 1 project; replacing the Belle C h a s s e tunnel with

a mid-level bridge; construction of a I-10 connector for Houma-Thibodaux; elevation of U.S. 90 from the Westbank Expressway to Raceland (future I-49); completion of I-49 South; assistance with increased population on the North Shore; and special equipment for DOTD, such as a satellite communications system and generators.

### Flood protection

This category includes levee improvements from Morgan City to Slidell designed to withstand a Category 5 hurricane and repairs/upgrades to the pumping capacity in the New Orleans metro area.

Bradberry noted that some 1.4 million residents have been affected by the storm.

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## BITS (continued from page 2)

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seem overwhelming or even impossible. But you also should know this: We will succeed. I know this because I know the caliber of people of DOTD. I have seen the determination in the eyes of our fellow employees, bone-tired but still working harder than they thought they ever would to serve their neighbors and protect lives and property. I have heard it in the hoarse voices of co-workers who are going too long without sleep but refuse to give up. I feel it when I talk with all of you. We will succeed.

However, heart and determination are not enough. For us to rebuild the area, we must commit ourselves as never before to the basic philosophies of efficiency, teamwork and service to our citizens. I fully intend for this agency to set the standard of what customer service is, not only for Louisiana but for the United States. We can accomplish this only by working together as a team.

I realize that tensions are high, and friction may occur among employees who are in high-stress environments. However, during this difficult time, it is imperative that we set all differences aside and work shoulder-to-shoulder with a common goal in mind: We will serve the public, and we will do it because we are stronger as a team than we are as individuals.

I don’t have to tell you that the whole world is watching us right now, and we have an opportunity to show everyone what we’re made of. People say a lot of things about DOTD and Louisiana, and a lot of those things are wrong. Now we have the chance to tell the true story of our agency and our beloved state. I am proud to have the opportunity to lead you forward in this effort. Louisiana will be rebuilt, and DOTD will pave the way.

## NEWS BRIEFS



From left, Chief Engineer Bill Temple, Project Development Engineer Richard Savoie and Secretary Johnny B. Bradberry bring home the 2005 Value Engineering Outstanding Achievement Award presented to DOTD by the Federal Highway Administration.



District 62 Administrator Connie Standige, left, and Secretary Johnny B. Bradberry, right, present Joyce L. Stevens and Travis R. Puls with the Secretary's Award of Excellence for the quarter ending June 30.

Stevens works as an accounting specialist 2; Puls is an engineer technician 4. Both work in the Hammond District office.



On Aug. 2, Deputy Secretary Cedric Grant, second from left, joined DOTD's summer engineering interns for the Annual Luncheon with the Secretary. Except for one year, the luncheon has been held annually since 1999.

*DOTD employed 30 interns statewide this summer.*



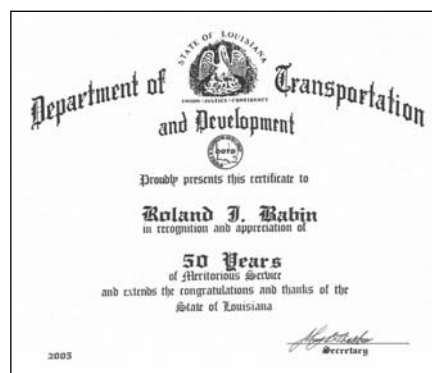
Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco and DOTD Secretary Johnny B. Bradberry unveil a permanent memorial during a ceremony held at DOTD headquarters July 13.

*The memorial honors 33 employees who died on the job since 1963.*



Winners of the drawing at the summer "Books are Fun" benefit book sale were, from left, Johnny Kinsey and Peggy Brandes, both of Human Resources, and Bonnie Hill of Construction, Fabrications. Awards were presented by Scott Calkins, right, of "Books are Fun."

Ten percent of the proceeds of the highly successful event (\$525) were donated to DOTD's partner school, Scotlandville Middle Magnet High.



*Congratulations to Roland Babin of District 03, who recently celebrated 50 years of service for DOTD. Our records indicate that he is the first employee ever to receive this honor.*

# QUARTERLY RECOGNITION AWARDS

(QUARTER ENDING MARCH 2005)

## Headquarters

### Employee of the Quarter

Amy Gotreaux

### Manager of the Quarter

None

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Harold Beck, Carol Cranshaw, Emily Efferson, Michelle Horne, Anne Ladner, Donna Lavigne, and Wanda Walker.

## District 02

### Employee of the Quarter

Jennifer Branton

### Manager of the Quarter

Clyde Davis

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Pauline Rector, Vanessa Ronquille, and Yetta Weatherspoon.

## District 03

### Employee of the Quarter

Tance Fremin

### Manager of the Quarter

Mitzi Talley

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Frank Citrano, Wayne Daigle, Rogers Delasbour, Brian Ducote, Paul Featherston, Douglas Horton, Marlin McDaniel, Edward Naquin, Kenny Pellerin, Carolyn Roberson and Kenneth Trahan.

## District 04

### Employee of the Quarter

Boss Walker

### Manager of the Quarter

Jim Finley

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Danny Carr Jr., Billy Guin, Ronald Hickman, Fulton Jones III, Mickey Martin and Jack Wood.

## District 05

### Employee of the Quarter

Lawana J. Lightsey

### Manager of the Quarter

Frankie L. Brown

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Levi Closure, Kenneth R. Cotton,

Glenn E. Jones, Bobby R. Marsh, Roy D. Warren, Jerry E. Peacock Jr., David D. Porter, Brenda G. Walters, Ronnie D. Walters and Leslye W. Wiltcher.

## District 07

### Employee of the Quarter

Dale Conner

### Manager of the Quarter

None

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Rayford Andrus, Bobby Brown, Clint Fontenot, Kenneth Fontenot, Mark Lamb, Mark Robert, and Kevin Watkins.

## District 08

No Awards

## District 58

### Employee of the Quarter

Tommy Mayo

### Manager of the Quarter

Jimmy Busby

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Tommy Compton, James Fatheree, Joey Freeman, Sanford Griffin, Terry MacDougald, Sidney Mack, John Martin, William Richmond, Daniel Stapleton, and Gorden Whitten.

## District 61

### Employee of the Quarter

David Jenks

### Manager of the Quarter

Michael Bennett

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

None

## District 62

### Employee of the Quarter

David Danna

### Manager of the Quarter

Earl David Williams

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Ben Strickland, Charles DePhillips, Duncan Freche, Richard Garner, David Rogoz, and Roy Scimeca

## CCCD

### Employee of the Quarter

Ronald Bonnette

### Manager of the Quarter

Alvin J. Robichaux Jr.

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

John J. Adamo, Thomas Algere, Kay S. Bass, Sebastian A. Calvey Sr., Jason Franklin, Sterling J. Gaines, Herbert J. Hortard Jr., Earl D. Kelly, Ian A. Miller, Paul W. Mitchell, Marlene V. Moody, Kim Nguyen, Satnaraine Rambaran, Percy D. Stone, Greta Thompson, Raymond Troulliet and Tara R. Vincent.

## Technology Transfer

The following became certified inspectors between June 1 and Aug. 31:

### Asphaltic Concrete Plant

#### Inspection:

Kevin P. Barbier	District 02
Michael J. Westmoreland	District 02
Melissa Faye Causey	District 61

### Embankment and Base Course

#### Inspection:

James T. Smallwood	District 04
John J. Soares	District 05
Justin David Dunn	District 08
Duane W. Sharp, Jr.	District 08
Bryan Austin Fontenot	District 61

### Portland Cement Concrete Paving

#### Inspection:

Travis J. Lovell	District 02
Harvey L. McLendon	District 04

### Structural Concrete Inspection:

Jerry Lee Lundy	District 02
Lance P. Pitre	District 03

### Asphaltic Concrete Paving

#### Inspection:

Rosa M. Howell	District 04
Vincent J. Magryta	District 04
Jaime G. Glass	District 07

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# EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

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(2004)

## Headquarters

### Employee of the Year

Jason Dunlap

### Manager of the Year

Dean Goodell

### Best Team Effort of the Year

Sandra Batten, Lori Davis, Pam Miller and Cindy O'Neal

## District 02

### Employee of the Year

James Kapisis

### Manager of the Year

Rita Knott

### Best Team Effort of the Year

Robert Augillard, Jr., Ernest Breashears, Jr., Gregory Carter, Jr., Clyde M. Davis, Michael Gordon, James Handy, Stafford Jones, Ralph Lagrue, Jr., Ernest Sanchez, Raymond Stadler and Melvin Ursin

## District 03

### Employee of the Year

Shirley Amos

### Manager of the Year

Lynn Dodge

### Best Team Effort of the Year

Christine Bourgeois, Brandon Bundick, Nicholas Chachere, Lawrence Fontenot, Jr., Jarrod Francois, David Landry, Edward Scott Newsom, C.R. "Rick" Villejoin and Robert West

## District 04

### Employee of the Year

Shirley DeBusk

### Manager of the Year

Brian Chelette

### Best Team Effort of the Year

Huey Booker, Isaac Cooper, R.M. Dickerson, Jeremy Fulghum, Steve Green, Louis Houston, Terry Hutchinson, Ronnie Keith, Robert Kent, Thurman Marr, Mack Mayweather, Erick Moreno, Ronnie Salley, Hoston

Spencer, Anthony Scott, Lori Whatley and Ricky Young

## District 05

### Employee of the Year

Jeremy Ratcliff

### Manager of the Year

David Porter

### Best Team Effort of the Year

John S. Bearden, Mathew T. Blackmon, Garvin Charles Bowden, Jr., Michael T. Carter, Kurt Arthur Diel, Willie James English, Christopher E. Gibson, Willie Hardwell, Jr., Jessie Holland, Olly C. Hughes, Wanda J. Johnson, Jimmy Edward Kelly, Danny J. Lenard, Jonothan Dewayne McMillan, Steven J. Millien, Charles E. Milton, Jr., Andre Pridgett, Quantez L. Reese, George D. Skains, Jason R. Springfield, Jerry D. Wainwright and Louis R. Whitlock

## District 07

### Employee of the Year

David Marcantel

### Manager of the Year

Burkman Fruge, Jr.

### Best Team Effort of the Year

Randall Bennett, Dan Daniels, Joseph Fontenot, Jr., Burkman Fruge, Jr., Horace Griffith, John Guillory, Robert Herron, Jeremy Johnson, Wilbert LeBlue, Robert Mayeaux, Joseph McGee, Dallas Thibodeaux and Frederick Thomas

## District 08

### Employee of the Year

None

### Manager of the Year

George Weatherford

### Best Team Effort of the Year

District 08

## District 58

### Employee of the Year

Richard Davis

### Manager of the Year

Terry Maxwell

### Best Team Effort of the Year

Gerald Jones, Billy Olivo, Benny Parker, Rodney Rials, Edwin Rushing and Roger Ward

## District 61

### Employee of the Year

Michael Westerfield

### Manager of the Year

Terri Hammack

### Best Team Effort of the Year

Tommy Annison, Aaron Little, Adam Muse, James Ott, Allen Stepter and Daniel Wascom

## District 62

### Employee of the Year

Connie Bentivegna

### Manager of the Year

James D. Fauntleroy

### Best Team Effort of the Year

Chuck Basso, Nelson Beard, Robin Burch, Larry Burris, David Celino, James Cutrer, Heard Harris, Melissa Hendry, Carlos Hurd, Tommy Jenkins, L.K. Jones, Jason Kellar, Caleb Martin, Travis McBeth, Andy Nobles, James Sharp, Larry Sharp, Marty Sharp, Chris Spears, Steve Stewart, Harry Taylor, Nick Tranchina and Kenny Warren

## CCCD

### Employee of the Year

Shawana Leonard

### Manager of the Year

Gale Duplessis

### Best Team Effort of the Year

Lindsay Ayer, III, Lones Gagnard, Jr., Edward Mitchell, and Lloyd Williams

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# PERSONNEL UPDATES

(JUNE 2005-AUGUST 2005)

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## NEW HIRES

**DISTRICT 02 – NEW ORLEANS**  
Chianti D. Barbarin; Bruce E. Berardi; Eldred F. Johnson; Brandon Paul Melancon; Hestel Harold Rainey; Taff Rivers Jr.; Alvin Isaac Smith; and Willie Welch

**DISTRICT 03 – LAFAYETTE**  
Zina Cormier; Melinda R. Credeur; John A. Desormeaux; Michael Joseph Douet; Rose Marie Harrington; Paul Junius Landry; Jesse Paul Maturin; Kevin James Noel; Russell Joseph Thibodeaux; and Nathan James Walker

**DISTRICT 04 – BOSSIER CITY**  
Bobby Lane Holley and Jason W. Winget

**DISTRICT 05 – MONROE**  
Clayton R. Cormier and Jimmy L. Densmore II

**DISTRICT 07 – LAKE CHARLES**  
Casey B. Bolton; Emmett Robert Broussard; Robert L. Doxey Jr.; Ted Emaiston Jr.; James Lewis Hebert; Tommy C. Manuel; and Michael P. Merritt

**DISTRICT 08 – ALEXANDRIA**  
Donald Ray Booth; Nolan Ray Cole; Gerald L. Lacaze Jr.; Thaddeus J. Rabalais; and Michelle Marie Young

**DISTRICT 58 – CHASE**  
James W. Blanton Jr.; Stephen A. Crawford; Justin Z. Currington; Emma Dianne Dupuis; Daniel Floyd Parker; Justin B. Reeves; and Bradley Keith Waldrop

**DISTRICT 61 – BATON ROUGE**  
Clarence Batton Jr.; John Joseph Burks Jr.; Ryan Simon Duhon; Nathan P. Guillot Jr.; Guy Anthony Harry; Darlene E. Hebert; Clyde M. Johnson; Gary M. Kilshaw; Cindy C. Lewis; Mary Maxine Ruvalcaba; and Jason J. Zito

**DISTRICT 62 – HAMMOND**  
Jamie D. Cryer Sr.; Ramon J. Fonseca; Jerry Hopkins; and Jodee Lynn Ortego

**HEADQUARTERS & OTHER**  
Warren L. Allbritton; Chantrelle M. Anderson; John D. Annison; Linda Ann Bland; Jeffery Richard Brown; Nicholas G. Carle; Berlinda T. Charles; Astrid Brianna Conerly; Steven W. Garner; Jill Marie Guerin; Michael Shane Hebert; Stanley Johnson; Bijoy K. Mohanty; Justin C. Peltier; Geralyn A. Penn; Loran Pigott; David P. Rogoz; Eric K. Royce; Michael P. Sacco; Marcald K. Simon; Lakeivea L. Warren; Robert D. White IV; and Edward Keith Wilson

## PROMOTIONS

**DISTRICT 02 – NEW ORLEANS**  
Chianti D. Barbarin; Trebor M. Breaux; Duane C. Foret; Irvin Harold Gaubert Jr.; Robert R. Hertle; Ralph Robert Lagrue Jr.; Samuel Paternostro Jr.; and Thomas L. Payment

**DISTRICT 03 – LAFAYETTE**  
James Mark Ledoux; Lyle J. Taylor; and Francis J. Washington

**DISTRICT 04 – BOSSIER CITY**

Steve P. Christner; Terry Wayne Combs; Carlton J. Frye; Jessie R. Hughes; Richard Allen Mathews; Thomas D. Myers; Kenneth D. Roberts; Casey L. Rogers; and David R. Wallace

**DISTRICT 05 – MONROE**  
Brian Keith Strange and Delores B. Watts

**DISTRICT 07 – LAKE CHARLES**  
Timothy F. Coleman

**DISTRICT 08 – ALEXANDRIA**  
Patrick K. Fontenot; R. M. Herrington; Jonathon Ray Lacombe; Don C. Oglesby Jr.; Darrell G. Rachal; and Terry L. Shepherd

**DISTRICT 58 – CHASE**  
Richard William Davis; Joseph Sam Foy; Jeffery T. Graham; Ricky J. Moon; and Charles Ray Parker

**DISTRICT 61 – BATON ROUGE**  
Reginald V. Pickett

**DISTRICT 62 – HAMMOND**  
None

**HEADQUARTERS & OTHER**  
Jeremy Paul Barbier; Tyrone J. Barthelemy Jr.; Mary Susan Blanchard; Gordon A. Boudouin; Luanna F. Cambas; Keisha Michele Clark; Kellie M. Collins; E. Carey Goodwin; Hubert E. Graves; Sue Ellen Hopper; David Jude Kramer; Gwendolyn Lafrance; Marshall S. Lee; Dayna Jean Mayeux; Jerome J. Ryan; Kristy L. Smith; Mark D. Smith; Daria Mayeux West; and James Edwin Yates



## **PERSONNEL UPDATES**(CONTINUED)

### **RETIREMENTS**

#### **DISTRICT 02 – NEW ORLEANS**

Martha D. Alfonso; Lyes J. Bourg Jr.; and Roger D. Johnson

#### **DISTRICT 03 – LAFAYETTE**

Autry G. Moreau; Linda R. Titus; and W.E. Triplette

#### **DISTRICT 04 – BOSSIER CITY**

J. W. Jennings Jr. and Marcus A. Long Jr.

#### **DISTRICT 05 – MONROE**

Jerry S. Ratcliff

#### **DISTRICT 07 – LAKE CHARLES**

Roxanne Cummings; David Darwin Deloach; Larry D. Fontenot; John G. Henry; and Jimmy D. Leger

#### **DISTRICT 08 – ALEXANDRIA**

Kenneth M. Crow; Charlie Burel Lasyone; Gilbert F. Morris; Theresa B. Nugent; Jimmie R. Strickland; John Charles Trull; Linda Y. Walker; and John H. Whitehead Jr.

#### **DISTRICT 58 – CHASE**

Michael D. Laing

#### **DISTRICT 61 – BATON ROUGE**

Ellis C. Watts Jr.

#### **DISTRICT 62 – HAMMOND**

Gary J. Angelo

### **HEADQUARTERS & OTHER**

John V. Bayham; James E. Braswell Jr.; Charles D. Broome; Alwyn J. Buras; Farilyn Dupuy; James Barry Edmondson; Norman A. Grass III; Colvin J. Hebert Jr.; Eric Jeansonne; Lloyd G. Landry; Isaac G. C. Rogers Jr.; Sandra S. Soape; Tracy Amond Walker; Lawanda J. Williams; and Peggy B. Willis

## **Hurricanes damage one-third of area's movable bridges**

**M**ore than one-third of the movable bridges in the areas affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita were damaged, and about 20 percent are closed to either marine or vehicular traffic.

Secretary Johnny B. Bradberry estimated that 90 percent of all emergency contracts to re-establish normal operation of movable bridges should be complete by mid-November at a projected cost of \$15 million.

Vince Latino, DOTD engineer for fleet and movable bridge maintenance, said the data reflects completed inspections related to Hurricane Katrina and initial reports on the effects of Hurricane Rita.

Latino said 142 movable bridges (on-system and off-system) were in areas affected by the storms. Of these, 52 (37 percent) were damaged to some degree, and 28 bridges (19.7 percent) are closed to either marine or vehicular traffic.

Hurricane Katrina wreaked the most havoc, with 22 bridges sustaining enough damage to be eligible for federal assistance at an estimated cost of \$10 million. Of the 17 state-owned movable bridges, 13 emergency contracts have been

issued for repairs. The department also is assisting local entities issue emergency contracts for two – LaPalco and Doullut.

As for Hurricane Rita, initial estimates indicate 30 on-system bridges sustained enough damage to be eligible for federally funded repairs – 14 in District 02; nine in District 03; and seven in District 07. Seven emergency contracts have been issued so far, and DOTD crews are working to repair 11.

Other damages outlined in an Oct. 5 report include:

➤ Three other fixed bridges besides the I-10 “twin spans” – the Caminada Bay Bridge in Grand Isle (repairs due for completion as the newsletter went to press); the I-10 bridge over a drainage canal 1 mile from the “twin spans”; and the U.S. 11 bridge over I-10 – at an estimated cost of \$450,000.

➤ Two locks in District 02, Empire and Ostrica, \$1.5 million estimate.

➤ Two of three tunnels in District 02, the Belle Chasse and Harvey tunnels, \$150,000 estimate.

➤ Three pumping stations – Airline and Pontchartrain in District 02 and Westlake in District 07 – \$1.1 million estimate.

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# HR HOT TOPICS

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## **DISPLACED DOTD EMPLOYEES**

As of press time, the Human Resources Section is continuing to hear from employees who were temporarily displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and is helping to facilitate the employees' return to work as soon as possible. A special toll-free number (866-783-5493) has been set up for this purpose. The HR staff also surveyed employees in an effort to determine housing needs, and this revealed that approximately 165 displaced employees have a need for temporary housing assistance. DOTD is currently working with the Division of Administration and FEMA to facilitate this aid.

## **SUPPORT SERVICES TO DOTD EMPLOYEES**

Parish Mental Health clinics are available to provide professional counseling to employees and their families who've been affected by the hurricane disaster. Also available is a toll-free, 24-hour hotline (866- 615-8700) and an online resource sponsored by United Behavioral Health (UBH) for any affected employee or family member. Callers to UBH are assisted by professional counselors and receive referrals to aid in dealing with personal difficulties resulting from the crisis.

## **CIVIL SERVICE RULE ADOPTED**

The Civil Service Commission adopted a new rule which allows all deadlines required by the CS rules to be suspended during a declared state of emergency. This rule enables agencies to focus on critically urgent matters directly relating to the disaster.

## **MEDICARE TAX REFERENDUM DEADLINE EXTENSION**

Employees with home addresses in zip codes heavily affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are given an extension until Dec. 30 to return their ballots stating whether they wish to participate in the Medicare Tax. Any questions concerning this may be directed to Ellen Catherine, (225) 379-1229.

## **HIRING AND SPENDING FREEZE**

Gov. Blanco issued an executive order Sept. 19, implementing a hiring/spending freeze in activities financed by State General Fund or funds whose balances revert to the State General Fund. Although DOTD is exempt from this order, a freeze was put into effect by DOTD Sept. 22 on new hires and nonhurricane related travel expenditures.

## **DUAL EMPLOYMENT**

As a result of employee inquiries, the HR Section advises that employees are prohibited, under LA Revised Statute 42:63, from employment with FEMA while simultaneously working for DOTD, regardless of whether the employees are on paid leave or leave without pay.

## **PROTECTIVE SERVICES (PS) PAY SCHEDULE**

Gov. Blanco approved changes to this pay schedule on Aug. 29. The revised structure reflects an increase in all PS pay range maximums by approximately 13 percent. Range minimums remain unchanged. The schedule also includes a one-pay-level adjustment for all DOTD police jobs as well as a new police series which may affect some DOTD positions.

## **DOTD PROCESS IMPROVEMENT - NEW HR TEAMS**

Team members are being selected and work will begin as soon as practical to review current processes and establish "to be" standards in the areas of Performance Planning and Review (PPR) and Workforce Planning. Teams are committed to implementing new/revised processes in these areas to enhance effectiveness and ensure that these programs are aligned with DOTD mission and goals.

## **POSITION DESCRIPTION CYCLICAL REVIEW PROJECT**

To ensure that all position descriptions are updated on a systematic basis, the HR Compensation Unit has begun this project whereby positions descriptions will be reviewed and allocated on a systematic basis. Appointing authorities are requested to submit updated SF-3s based on the most recent revision dates on file.

## **PAM DANTIN ASSUMES NEW RESPONSIBILITIES**

Pam Dantin now serves as Employee Assistance Program (EAP) manager and contact person for military leave coordination/assistance. Any questions about EAP or military leave should be directed to Pam at (225) 379-1241.

## **UPCOMING REFRESHER TRAINING: SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND WORKPLACE VIOLENCE**

HR will conduct these classes for Headquarters employees in November 2005. All employees must attend this mandatory training every three years as required by federal/state authorities (USDOT/LA ORM). A formal training schedule notice is forthcoming.

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# MAILBAG



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Dear DOTD,

I must let you know that I was told that Liz Davoli did a magnificent job during a meeting that took place Sept. 13.

The meeting pertained to the handling of the unmarked cemetery discovered on the LA 841-Rilla project segment. A number of governmental agencies were involved in the meeting and it looked like things were going to get bogged down in a bureaucratic quagmire. At that time Liz took control of the meeting and clearly and succinctly outlined what needed to be done, what the DOTD wanted done, and listed what issues needed to be decided upon immediately. Consensus was quickly reached and the meeting finished with a clear focus and direction.

Thought you should know.

Philip K. Meyers, P.E.  
Deputy Director, Project Development  
Louisiana TIMED Managers

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Dear DOTD,

As a fire chief for the past 25 years I have seen some remarkable achievements. However I witnessed one man's effort that was second-to-none. The DOTD area supervisor from New Roads, Mr. Charles Berthelot, exhibited extraordinary leadership skills in keeping the roadways open for emergency traffic. He was unbelievable and performed his job with great concern for the citizens of our area. I sure would like to have a couple of people like Charles in our fire department.

I was monitoring the radio at the fire station all during the hurricane Friday night and into Saturday. I can tell you Charles and his crew were doing a wonderful job clearing trees from the roadways. Everyone worked as a team including the Pointe Coupee Sheriff's Office and local Fire Departments and everyone did their part. Past my thanks on to Charles and his men for a job well done.

Thanks,  
Dale Bergeron  
Livonia Fire Department Chief  
Livonia, Louisiana

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Dear Governor Blanco,

I serve on the Transportation Committee in the House and am considerably impressed by the work of Secretary Johnny Bradberry and his staff. We are finally seeing some progress with our much needed projects on the Northshore, and the completion of other important projects such as the Highway 1088 interchange and TIMED project 3242 will only serve to increase economic growth and jobs in this state.

Sincerely,  
Representative Tim Burns

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Dear DOTD,

My appreciation exceeds my words for the kind of service provided by the Motorist Assistance Patrol. The service was much needed and the man that performed the service should be commended for his nice attitude. Having worked for the school system with kids for some time, I recognize good service when I experience it.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. C.W. Robinson  
Meeting the Needs Television Ministry

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**COMMUTER LINES**

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## DOTD expands Motorist Assistance Patrol area

Faced with considerably heavier traffic on Baton Rouge interstates, the state DOTD is expanding its Motorist Assistance Patrol program in the area.

MAP, which offers assistance to disabled interstate motorists to improve traffic flow, has doubled the number of vans in operation on Baton Rouge interstates and extended its operating hours to 10 p.m. The tow truck that normally patrolled the New Orleans area will now be used in Baton Rouge, according to Craig Melancon, MAP project manager.

The MAP vans can provide a gallon of gas; change a flat tire; jump-start a car; fill a vehicle radiator with water; and provide the use of a cell phone to make a local call for additional assistance as needed.

Prior to Hurricane Katrina, patrols operated in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lake Charles and Shreveport-Bossier City. Baton Rouge had three vans

patrolling I-12 and I-10 seven days a week from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

MAP has now added three vans in the Baton Rouge area, extended its hours to operate until 10 p.m. and expanded its coverage on I-10 to LaPlace and on I-12 to I-55.

Pre-Katrina, MAP vans in Baton Rouge averaged 40 assists per day, Melancon said. Post-storm and before the additional vans, the number of assists had grown to an average of about 60 per day. Melancon said he expects average daily assists to double with the additional van use and the expanded hours and coverage area.

MAP vans patrol to find stranded motorists on I-12 from I-55 to the I-10/I-12 split; on I-10 from La. 415 to LaPlace; and on I-110 to U.S. 61. Additionally, motorists can call their local law enforcement to request help; \*LSP (for Louisiana State Police) on certain cell phones; or 911 in case of an emergency.